Twelfth Day of Christmas Tuesday, 5 January 2021

Bible in Time: New Testament Study

Today: My Overview of the Acts of the

Apostles

Tomorrow: Acts 1 & 2; Revolutionary pp.

33-34

January Assignments Calendar

Prayer Suggestion:
Unveiling Christianity
Center for Action and Contemplation

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is a wonderment of history, travel, the founding of churches, major first decisions of the Church, and featuring Peter and Paul.

The Book of Acts is volume 2 from the writer of the Gospel of Luke. The gospel speaks of Jesus and Acts speaks of the founding and expansion of the Church. The key question in Acts - Is the way of Jesus a subset of the Jewish faith or is it something new?

The book of Acts reads like an adventure with new churches being founded in Asia and Europe. We start with Jesus rising to

heaven and asking his disciples to carry on the ministry, making more disciples, and coming together in community. We end with Paul going to Rome to face a trial. In his <u>Introducing the New Testament</u>, Mark Powell says about Acts ...

"The theology of Acts focuses, first, on God as having sovereign control over all of history. God sometimes guides people by revealing what has been predestined. God has also proven faithful in keeping promises; thus, the transfer of divine blessings from Israel to gentiles must be understood as a consequence of Israel's rebelliousness and not of God's unfaithfulness. The book of Acts does emphasize that a remnant of Israel continues to be faithful, and the book presents Jerusalem as the center of the Christian movement. The book of Acts also presents Jesus as still present within the church, and it links the reception of present and future salvation to him. Much of Acts is taken up with an enthusiastic account of the church at work in the world, a mission that is marked by charismatic manifestations of the Holy Spirit, miracles, numerical growth, and victorious, triumphant living."

Look for maps of the Apostle Paul missionary journeys and his trip to Rome in your study Bible or online. Reading Acts 1 & 2 we are in year 30 and beginning near Jerusalem.

Pray and embrace the adventure of founding the <u>Way of Love</u>.

In Christ,

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Note: "Revo." or "Revolutionary" refers to our textbook "Revolutionary Bible Study" by Gene Edwards, ISBN 978-0-97975157-8, © 2009.